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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claim 1. (amended) A system, comprising:

- a) a gas turbine engine, which includes at least ~~one~~ two bolted together annular flanges extending from a turbine casing; and
- b) a continuous annular heat shield, which
 - i) encapsulates the annular flanges, and
 - ii) includes bellows or diaphragms which reduce the axial modulus of elasticity of the heat shield.

Claim 2. (amended) System according to claim 1, wherein the annular heat shield includes base edges adjacent the turbine casing, and the annular heat shield is impervious to gas flow, or is impervious to gas flow except ~~possibly~~ at the base edges.

Claim 3. (amended) System according to claim 1, wherein the annular heat shield is constructed of several adjacent units, each unit including:

- c) a mounting section in thermal contact with a first sector of the flange;
- ~~bd)~~ a hollow section surrounding a second sector of the flanges, and separated from the second sector by a blanket of air; and
- ~~de)~~ a bulkhead lying in an axial plane, which connects the ~~bracket~~ mounting section with the hollow section.

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Claim 4. (amended) System according to claim 3, wherein the mounting sections are generally U-shaped in cross section, with legs of the U in thermal contact with the annular flanges.

Claim 5. (original) System according to claim 3, wherein the bulkheads flex during thermal expansion or contraction of the annular heat shield.

Claim 6. (amended) System according to claim 4, and further comprising ~~spacers which extend between the heat shield and either the annular flange or the turbine casing, and which support the annular flange~~ sealing flanges of the mounting section in sealing engagement with the flanges.

Claim 7. (original) A system, comprising:

- a) a gas turbine engine, which includes an annular flange extending from a turbine casing, the flange/casing having an axial modulus of elasticity defined therein; and
- b) a heat shield, which
 - i) encapsulates a sector of the flange, and
 - ii) has an axial modulus of elasticity which is less than fifty percent of the axial modulus of elasticity of the sector.

Claims 8-10 (canceled)

Claim 11. (amended) A system, comprising:

- a) a gas turbine engine, which includes at least

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~~one~~ two bolted together annular flanges extending from ~~a~~ two turbine shrouds respectively;

b) an annular heat shield constructed of a sequence of hollow units, each unit surrounding a sector of the annular flanges, and each unit comprising:

- i) a first housing which surrounds a first sector of the bolted together annular flanges, and
- ii) a second housing which surrounds a second sector of the bolted together annular flanges to define an air space between the second housing with the second sector.

Claim 12. (amended) System according to claim 11, wherein (A) the first housing is generally U-shaped in cross-section, and (B) legs of the U straddle the flanges.

Claim 13. (amended) System according to claim 11, and further comprising bolts which extend through the first housings and through the annular flanges, and which clamp the first housings into thermal contact with the annular flanges.

Claim 14. (amended) System according to claim 11, and further comprising:

- c) a planar diaphragm, lying in an axial plane, connecting an end of the first housing with an end of the second housing.

Claim 15. (original) System according to claim 11, and further

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comprising:

- c) bellows means within the heat shield for reducing the axial modulus of elasticity of the heat shield.

Claim 16. (amended) System according to claim 11, and further comprising ~~a collection of spacers positioned between the annular heat shield and either the annular shroud or the flange, which spacers support the annular heat shield~~ sealing flanges of the second housing in sealing engagement with the annular flanges.

Claim 17. (original) System according to claim 16, wherein an annular space exists between the annular heat shield and the flange.

Claims 18-19 (canceled)